

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 2/4/09  
HB 353**Would You? updated with some changes**

Lila Horner [lila\_babymontana@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 11:18 AM**To:** Costigan, Twila

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Would You?

My name is Lila Horner, along with my husband, Todd we have been taking care of Montana's precious foster children for 5 years all from the age of 7 months to 17.

In those 5 years we have had between 30 to 40 children in and out of our home either through respite, kinship, foster, specialized or therapeutic care. We have always adjusted our home each and every time someone in need enters our caring home. We have taken them to Doctor visits, Dentist visits, Therapy visits, parent visits and every other visit that this or that department needs them or us for. And because we live less than 10 miles of these places, we do this out of pocket. We are required to attend at least 15 hours of training per year to maintain our license, usually again, out of pocket.

Our belongings, our home, floors to ceilings and our selves are often cursed at, hit on, spit on, urinated on, and yes, let's not leave out feces on. Anything of value, sentimental or not, need to be put in hiding so it doesn't get broke or stolen. We work 24 hours a day every day 365 days a year. Homes that provide this kind of special care to children in need are called group homes. Who care for these children for around \$75.00 a day, AND the workers are paid at least the legal minimum wage (actually more like \$9.00 and on up per hour), not to mention the overtime. They have the use of company vehicles for transportation. These same workers receive at least 40 hours of vacation and usually round the same for sick time. After 5 years of service, between 2-3 weeks' vacation, some kind of health, dental and the possibility of retirement benefit.

In home care means we provide the children with a lifestyle that is kid oriented from the meals we provide, to the clothing they wear, I mean wear, to games/toys they destroy. All out of a less than small budget that we are currently receiving AND we didn't even add in the expenses of swim, dance and/or other childhood activities that interest them and encourage them fine living talents that prepares them for responsible adulthood.

We don't ask for much, in fact we ask far less from you than you do of us foster/adoptive parents. I am not going to beg you for a rate increase that would be insulting. We are already receiving pennies for Montana's precious commodities, children. I am however giving you, ladies and gentlemen, an example of what I and many of Montana's foster/adoptive parents go through and that is all for that less than small budget of \$16.22 an day -- 67 ½ cents an hour and then I ask you - would you?



Lila Horner

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